

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention extends to methods, systems, and computer program products for increasing the accuracy and efficiency of admission control for data streams. A transmitting computer system transfers a companion data stream along with a variable rate data stream to simulate the maximum data transfer of the variable rate data stream. Accordingly, active probing experiments conducted at other computer systems receive a more accurate indication of the available bandwidth (or bandwidth that may be available in the future). Computer systems can maintain admission control caches that indicate the results of previously conducted active probing experiments and the network configuration when previous data streams were admitted to a network. Computer systems can refer to an admission control cache when performing admission control to increase the efficiency of admission control. That is, an admission control decision can be made without having to conduct a complete active probing experiment.

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